

CWD UPDATE 78

August 30, 2006

The Colorado Division of Wildlife has posted some good maps showing the distribution of CWD in elk and deer in their state. The maps can be found at http://wildlife.state.co.us/NR/rdonlyres/E7B1EF1B-4E5B-4CBC-8DC6-CED0B5FFB953/0/CWDRResultsMapDeer2003_2005.pdf.

As everyone is aware, USDA-APHIS-VS has published their rule on interstate transport of captive cervids. This is the final rule, resulting from publication of the proposed rule in December of 2003 (yes 2003, that is not a typo). The final rule is summarized very well in SCWDS Briefs, which can be found at <http://www.uga.edu/scwds/briefs/706brief.pdf>. It is very important that everyone review this final rule as it has impact not only on the captive cervid industry, but on the translocation of cervids from wild to wild and on the movement of research animals. The entire rule can be found on the Federal Register web site at http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/fedreg/a060721c.html

Canada has confirmed an eighth case of BSE in a mature beef cow from Alberta. No part of the animal's carcass entered the human food or animal feed systems. Preliminary information provided by the owner and an examination conducted by a private veterinarian estimate the animal's age was between eight and ten years of age. Based on this range, exposure to the BSE agent likely occurred either before the feed ban's introduction or during its early implementation. The estimated age of this animal is consistent with those of previous Canadian cases. A Canadian Food Inspection Agency investigation is underway to locate the positive animal's birth farm. This information, if determined, will serve to definitively verify the animal's age as well as help identify herd mates of interest and potential sources of contaminated feed. As has been done previously, the CFIA will conduct a complete epidemiological review of this case, the results of which will be made public.

South Dakota Game, Fish, and Parks has released the final numbers for their CWD testing during the period July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2006. They tested a total of 3,252 samples from deer and elk and found a total of 14 positive animals. They tested 769 elk with 6 positive, 687 mule deer with 4 positives, and 1,616 whitetail deer with 4 positives. To date, South Dakota has found 47 cases of CWD (32 deer and 15 elk) in free ranging deer and elk since testing began in 1997. Wind Cave National Park accounts for 16 of these animals (8 elk, 8 deer). A total of 12,305 wild deer and elk have been tested for CWD in South Dakota since 1997.